



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Mahalingam et al.
Serial No.: 10/034,186
Filed: December 28, 2001
For: TOPICAL LIGHTENING COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS
OF USE
Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Examiner: Not yet assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 680.0054USU

Date: February 8, 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

We are also enclosing a copy of each of the following citations that are listed in form PTO-1449: U.S. Patent Nos. 5,756,099; 5,980,904; Japanese Patents (with English abstracts) 07025742 A; 07187989 A; 10265322 A; 2001163759 A; 2001181173 A; 2896815.

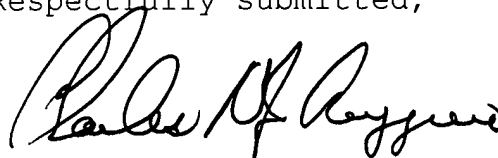
It is applicants' belief that none of the above citations describe that which is claimed in the present invention.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date, no petition or fee is required.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", is written over the typed name.

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